

DeCapua/SPED Funding Narrative

On June 29th 1986, I was in a horrible accident that left me in a coma as a result of a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). When I woke up, I had to learn how to walk, talk, eat, sleep, who my parents were all over again. The doctors that evaluated me at Yale New Haven Hospital and Gaylord Rehabilitation Hospital told my family that because of the damage done to my frontal left lobe, I would not graduate from Hamden High School and not to think of going to college.

The obstacles set forth were quite high. However, I would never be where I am today had it not been for 2 things. One, the approved funding to have a personal tutor to assist me and two, the Special Education teachers at Hamden High School. Sharon Drumm told me that the long term effects of a TBI would be with me for the rest of my life. She never gave up on me and taught me the tactics that assist me in overcoming the obstacles in which I go through on a daily basis today.

Because of the tactics taught, I was able to graduate Hamden High School class of 1989 and SCSU in 1995.

After spending 20 years in the private sector, I wanted to come back to the school district that made my life possible and give back to the students that are going through exactly what I went through.

Currently, I work as a full time Special Education Aide at Bear Path Elementary School in Hamden, CT. Also, I am on my way to receiving my Master's degree in Special Education with a concentration in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and a single father to my son Eli.

In conclusion, my personal story is evident that with the proper funding to assist students with special needs, incredible things can happen in their lives that can make them an asset in our community. But I'm not just doing it for myself, this is for: Charlie, Levi, Mahammad, Asia, Kyla, Cameron, Owen, Tyren, Evan B, Evan K, Brandon and Lucas. Now, let's give these awesome remarkable students the funding needed so they too, can tell THEIR story to the State of CT one day.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Francis N DeCapua III